Chanukah Activity Pack

A printable pack for children: how to play dreidel, a word search, a crossword, Chanukah riddles, a quick quiz and a page to draw your own menorah, with answers at the end.

How to play dreidel

Each player begins with an equal number of coins, nuts or other counters; ten each is a good start. Everyone puts one counter in the middle. Take turns spinning the dreidel. The letter on top when it falls tells you what to do:

- נ **Nun**: nothing happens.
- ג **Gimmel**: take the whole pot. Then everyone puts one in again.
- ה **Hei**: take half the pot.
- ש **Shin**: put one counter in.

When the pot is empty, everyone puts one in. Whoever runs out of counters is out. The letters stand for *Nes gadol hayah sham*, "a great miracle happened there". In Eretz Yisrael the Shin is a Pei (פ), for *po*, "here".

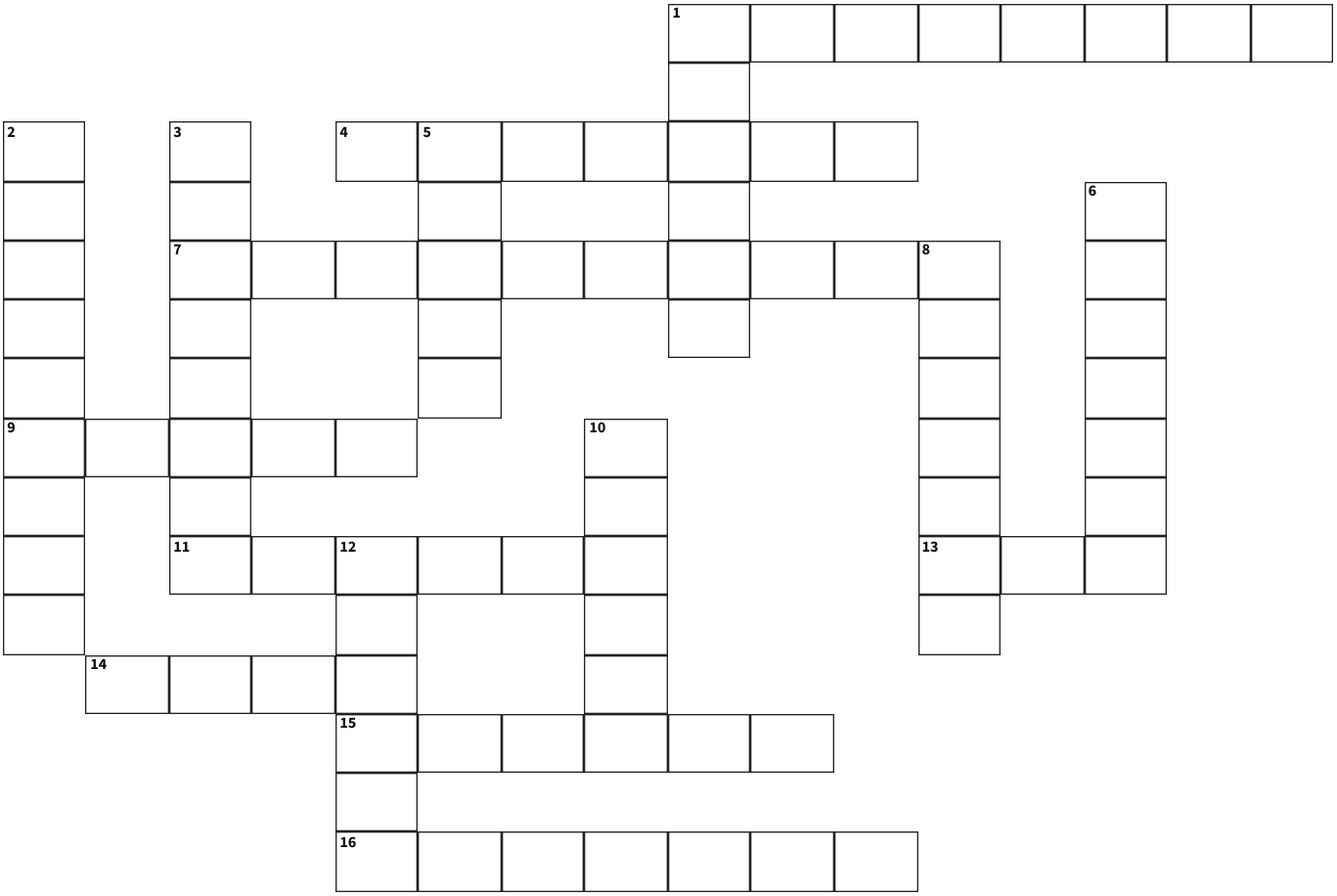
Word search

D	M	S	U	F	G	A	N	I	Y	O	S	I	T	C
H	G	E	L	T	Z	A	F	R	F	M	N	W	M	N
Q	I	Y	E	H	U	D	I	S	M	O	M	J	O	B
L	A	T	K	E	S	M	H	G	H	S	I	C	D	Z
Y	D	A	P	K	P	A	R	G	K	H	R	C	I	D
S	F	R	C	Y	R	C	P	R	O	I	A	Z	I	R
C	V	I	E	O	A	C	V	K	L	A	C	B	N	M
H	W	U	N	I	X	A	T	O	I	C	L	L	L	Q
A	V	E	L	A	D	B	J	H	V	H	E	E	I	S
N	M	L	K	A	F	E	X	E	E	K	X	S	G	H
U	Q	J	I	W	D	E	L	N	O	I	H	S	H	A
K	H	X	S	W	J	S	J	A	I	S	R	I	T	M
A	G	V	H	H	A	L	L	E	L	L	C	N	U	A
H	M	A	T	I	S	Y	A	H	U	E	Q	G	S	S
V	A	D	B	G	O	Y	J	E	E	V	I	A	A	H

Find these words in the grid. They run across, down or on a slant.

CHANUKAH · MENORAH · SHAMASH · DREIDEL · LATKES · SUFGANIYOS · GELT · OLIVE OIL · MIRACLE · MACCABEES · MATISYAHU · YEHUDIS · MODIIN · KISLEV · KOHEN · HALLEL · BLESSING · WICK · LIGHT · MOSHIACH

Crossword



Across

1. Title of Yehudah, son of Matisyahu (8)
4. Heroine who fed Holofernes cheese and wine (7)
7. Jam-filled doughnuts (10)
9. Mother of seven sons who would not bow to an idol (5)
11. Psalms of praise said in full each morning of Chanukah (6)
13. Found in one small jug, sealed by the Kohen Gadol (3)
14. Money given to children on Chanukah (4)
15. Hebrew month in which Chanukah begins (6)
16. The helper light that kindles the others (7)

Down

1. Village where the revolt against the Greeks began (6)
2. Greek king whose decrees led to the revolt (9)
3. Word whose number value, 358, equals the dreidel's letters (8)
5. Number of days the oil burned (5)
6. Spinning top with four Hebrew letters (7)
8. On Friday the menorah is lit before the candles for this (7)
10. Beis ___ ruled that we add one light each night (6)
12. Potato pancakes fried in oil (6)

Riddles

1. I have four sides and a letter on each. I dance on one foot, and when I fall, I tell you whether you have won. What am I?

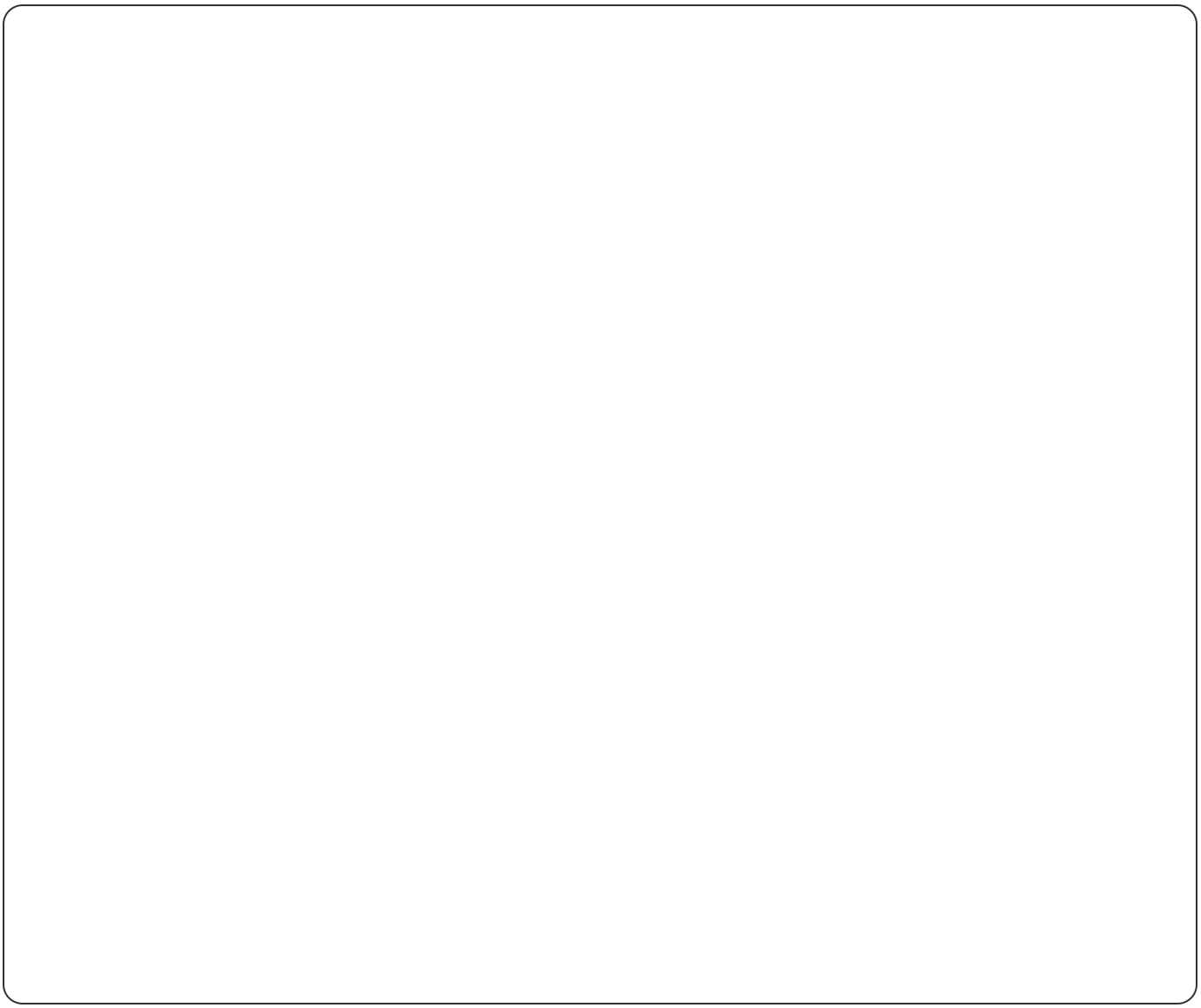
2. I am lit first, but I am never counted. I stand apart from the others, and higher. What am I?
3. I held enough for one day, but I lasted for eight. What am I?
4. Children get me, but the best part of me is the part they give away. What am I?
5. How is the number 44 connected to Chanukah?
6. How is the number 5 connected to Chanukah?
7. How is the number 358 connected to Chanukah?
8. Who was the father of Avner? (Hint: you light one every night.)

Quick quiz

1. What does the word Chanukah mean?
2. On what date does Chanukah begin?
3. In which town did the revolt begin?
4. Which three mitzvos did the Greeks outlaw?
5. How did the Chashmona'im know the jug of oil was pure?
6. How many blessings are said on the first night?
7. On the first night, where does the light go?
8. What is the eighth day of Chanukah called?

Draw your own menorah

Draw a Chanukah menorah with eight lights in one straight row and the shamash standing higher. Color in the flames for tonight's lights.



Answers

Crossword: Across 1 Maccabee · 4 Yehudis · 7 Sufganiyos · 9 Chana · 11 Hallel · 13 Oil · 14 Gelt · 15 Kislev · 16 Shamash. Down 1 Modiin · 2 Antiochus · 3 Moshiach · 5 Eight · 6 Dreidel · 8 Shabbos · 10 Hillel · 12 Latkes.

Riddles: 1 A dreidel. 2 The shamash. 3 The jug of pure oil. 4 Chanukah gelt, which gives children the chance to give tzedakah. 5 All the lights lit over Chanukah, counting the shamash each night: 36 lights plus 8 shamashim. 6 The five sons of Matisyahu: Yehudah, Yochanan, Shimon, Yonasan and Elazar. 7 The letters of the dreidel, Nun (50) + Gimmel (3) + Hei (5) + Shin (300), add up to 358, the same as Moshiach. 8 Ner, the same word as *ner*, a lamp.

Quick quiz: 1 Dedication. 2 The 25th of Kislev. 3 Modi'in. 4 Shabbos, Rosh Chodesh and bris milah. 5 It was sealed with the seal of the Kohen Gadol. 6 Three. 7 At the far right. 8 Zos Chanukah.

Activities from the geulah.org Chanukah games; riddles adapted from Tzivos Hashem Israel.